Pak Premier's Statement Regarding Kargil Intrusion

1562. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to Pak Prime Minister's statement in mid June, 1999, that the armed intruders in Kargil were Mujahideens and freedom fighters and that Pakistan had no control over their activities;

(b) if so, what steps were taken by Government to dispel the disinformation spread thereby especially amongst the G-8 industrialised countries and with what results; and

(c) how it was reflected in G-8 declaration after their summit at Cologne?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu & Kashmir was carried out by its regular Army and by terrorist groups under its management and control. Government brought these facts to the notice of the international community. The international community recognised Pakistan's armed intrusion and aggression and dismissed Pakistan's propaganda and its attempt to obfuscate these facts.

Pakistan's aggression against India was also condemmed by the G-8. At its summit at Cologne, the G-8 was critical of Pakistans attempt to change, through military action, the *status quo* on the Line of Control. They characterised this action as "irresponsible" and called for the immediate restoration of the Line of Control.

Steps to Regain the Lost Territories from China

1563. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the statement of the Prime Minister reported in the Times of India dated 9th September 1999 to the effect that India was trying to regain the lost territories from China;

(b) if so, whether any dialogue has been initiated with the Chinese Government in this regard;

(c) if not, when Government propose to open the dialogue with China for this purpose; and

(d) what other steps are contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The two sides are discussing the boundary question in the framework of the India-China Joint Working Group on the Boundary Question (JWG). The Eleventh Meeting of the JWG was held in Beijing on April 26-27, 1999. India and China have reiterated the objective of seeking a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question through dialogue. Both sides have also reiterated their commitment to maintaining peace and tranquillity in the India-China border areas.

Establishment of US Foreign Commercial Service Office at Hyderabad

1564. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state that the action taken to clear early the proposal for establishment of US foreign commercial service office at Hyderabad to quicken business activity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): The US Government had requested opening of Foreign Commercial Service Offices in some Indian cities, including Hyderabad. The Government considers all proposals taking into account ovedrall Indo-US commercial relations, reciprocity and the volume of business in suggested locations. Decisions in respect of opening of such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed. About Hyderabad the matter is under the active consideration of the Government.

India's Readiness to Sign the CTBT

1565. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported comment of U.S. Secretary of State Madeline Albright in